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Security Council

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Letter dated 28 May 2013 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am forwarding to you a letter dated 21 May 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), based on the conclusions adopted by the Working Group on 19 April 2013 (S/AC.51/2013/1) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Kodjo **Menan**
President of the Security Council

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Annex

Letter dated 21 May 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict addressed to the Secretary-General

At its 36th meeting, on 18 January 2013, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the first comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the situation of children and armed conflict affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) (S/2012/365), in which information is provided on six grave violations and abuses committed against children by LRA in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan during the period from July 2009 to February 2012.

At its 37th meeting, on 19 April 2013, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on the situation of children and armed conflict affected by LRA (S/AC.51/2013/1).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, which were approved by the Security Council, and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011), in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group I hereby:

(a) Recognize the important role played by the United Nations and its peacekeeping and special political missions in the region in the protection of children, stress the need for continued coordination and information-sharing between those missions and relevant actors relating to the regional threat posed by LRA and equally stress the importance of maintaining sufficient child protection capacity and, where necessary, increasing such capacity;

(b) Express support for the regional network of child protection focal points for LRA-affected areas;

(c) Urge for the swift implementation of the child protection pillar of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of LRA;

(d) Note the ongoing efforts being made to promote defections and urge all United Nations missions and actors in the region to work with regional forces and non-governmental organizations to encourage all children to leave LRA and to support the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration process throughout the LRA-affected areas;

(e) Underline the importance of strengthening the capacity of national authorities to expand the rule of law and ensure socioeconomic development in the affected areas in order to provide children formerly associated with LRA with a viable alternative, thus preventing their re-recruitment;

(f) Call for the Secretary-General to continue to issue comprehensive reports on the situation of children affected by LRA, with special emphasis on cross-border issues.

(*Signed*) Sylvie **Lucas**
Chair
Security Council Working Group
on Children and Armed Conflict